

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1-32 are pending and under consideration.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the scope of the present application. It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application. No new matter has been added.

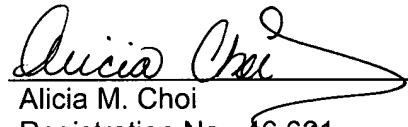
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 02/4/2004

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